



Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor  
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# STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



Scott Semple  
Commissioner

### Written Testimony from the Department of Correction in OPPOSITION to Senate Bill 878

The Department of Correction (DOC) is very concerned about the adverse impact of Senate Bill 878 on our responsibility to supervise inmates in the community. In addition, the proposed bill undermines Governor Malloy's Second Chance Society Initiative by making it extremely difficult to place and supervise inmates as part of a successful reintegration program.

The DOC does not own or lease supportive housing for inmates on community supervision in our towns and cities. Non-profit providers do. These providers are already required to notify municipalities and must comply with all City/Town zoning requirements. Zoning Committee meetings are already open to the public for appropriate input.

The ability to site a supportive housing unit is a requirement of the DOC's Request For Proposals process. The 30 day notification contained in Senate Bill 878 would violate the integrity of the competitive procurement process which would force DOC to disclose a potential award prior to the completion of the process.

The DOC aggressively supervises inmates in the community to deter recidivism. When requested, DOC designates one of our Parole Officers as a liaison to a municipality if issues arise at the site of one of our non-profit providers. Our Parole and Community Services Division has excellent working relationships with all of Connecticut's law enforcement agencies as part of our supervision process.

Understandably, neighborhoods can be concerned with new housing for inmates being returned into the community. The DOC is committed to working on an on-going basis to address such concerns. The vast majority of Connecticut's inmate population is returned into our cities and towns. The best way to make this transition successful, to reduce re-victimization and recidivism is to have supportive housing. Senate Bill 878 adds significant obstacles to the DOC's ability to provide supportive housing and we urge rejection. The DOC is committed to working with the Planning & Development Committee to fine-tune our supportive housing program to address concerns without undermining its effectiveness.

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